

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

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DRAFTED BY: A/SY/FO:LFSPALDING:TH

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R 111828Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 189502

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAKAR 4632 ACTION SECSTATE 08 AUG

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 4632

FOR AF FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ORON, XY, EG

SUBJ: WEST AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING

REF: STATE 184574

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO BE HOST TO OCTOBER 15-17 COM MEETING. AMBASSADOR AGGREY IS AWARE OF PLANNED MEETING AND HAS ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT BE ASSURED OF POST'S COMMITMENT TO HELP ACHIEVE TOTALLY SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

2. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, PENDING COMPLETION OF NEW CHANCERY BUILDING NOW SCHEDULED FOR MID-1976, PROVISIONAL CHANCERY AFFORDS CONFERENCE SPACES WHICH WILL BE AT BEST VERY CROWDED FOR 25 PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, SECURITY ASPECTS OF SPACES AVAILABLE POSE PROBLEMS WHICH POST WILL NEED OUTSIDE HELP TO RESOLVE. IN FACT, RESULTS OF EXAMINA-

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TION BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS MAY DICTATE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF CONFERENCE BE HELD IN ONE OF SEVERAL PERHAPS SUITABLE RESIDENCES RENTED OR OWNED BY EMBASSY.

3. ALAN HARDY, NOW IN DEPARTMENT ON CONSULTATION, HAS PARTICIPATED AS ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN EFFORTS TO MAKE PRELIMINARY PLANS HERE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CONFERENCE ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS. BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD DISCUSS WITH HARDY VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES POST CAN OFFER. AID DIRECTOR'S OFFICE AND USIS MOVIE ROOM PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SPACE BUT EACH PRESENTS ITS OWN SECURITY PROBLEMS. DCM'S OFFICE WOULD BE CRAMPED BUT MORE SECURE. RESIDENCE OF MARINE GUARDS THIRD POSSIBILITY.

4. SINCE EACH OF FOREGOING WOULD REQUIRE SOME ALTERATIONS SUCH AS IMPROVED AIR CONDITIONING, ENHANCED SECURITY MEASURES, AND (IN SOME CASES) OTHER FAIRLY EXTENSIVE ALTERATIONS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT BEING AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE AT THIS EARLY STAGE ABOUT NUMBERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND ALSO ANY SECURITY MEASURES WHICH SUCH CONFERENCES REQUIRE. GIVEN MARGINAL SUITABILITY OF MOST OF SPACES WHICH WE ABLE TO OFFER, WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ANY OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH MIGHT TAKE TIME FOR POST TO ARRANGE. SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPT GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ARRANGING EARLY VISIT HERE BY TECHNICAL SECURITY SPECIALIST WHO MIGHT ASSIST IN MAKING SELECTION OF SPACE AND ADVISE ON PREPARATIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY ASPECTS OF CONFERENCE AREA CHOSEN.
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